

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-25 are pending in the application.

Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Objection to the Claims

The claims have been objected to due to dependency mis-numbering. A Preliminary Amendment filed on July 20, 2004 addresses this objection. Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Double Patenting Rejections

A Terminal Disclaimer is submitted to address the double patenting rejections. Applicants respectfully request that the double patenting rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

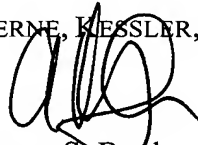
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for

allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



George S. Bardmesser
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,020

Date: August 23, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

301198v1